

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 03235 011630Z  
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /095 W  
-----011635Z 011969 /44

P R 011433Z APR 77  
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3442  
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
US MISSION NATO 4715  
US MISSION GENEVA 7522

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3235

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB SP  
SUBJECT: NEW SPANISH TRADE UNION LAW

REF: MADRID 2396

1. BY PHONE CALLS FROM MADRID THE SECRETARIAT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)  
HAS LEARNED DETAILS ABOUT PASSAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TRADE UNION  
BILL. INITIAL ICFTU REACTIONS TO THE NEW LAW ARE STRONGLY  
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NEGATIVE.

2. ACCORDING TO ENZO FRISO, HEAD OF THE ICFTU'S EUROPEAN  
DEPARTMENT, THE LAW IS OBJECTIONABLE FOR THREE REASONS:

A. THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN "VERTICAL" UNION STRUCTURE  
ESTABLISHED UNDER FRANCO REMAINS IN PLACE.

B. OFFICIALS OF THAT STRUCTURE AVE BEEN  
ENTRUSTED WITH THE TAKS OF IMPLEMENTING THE NEW LAW,  
OR AT LEAST PARTS OF IT.

C. INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS WOULD BE PERMITTED,  
BUT NOT NATIONAL CENTERS.

3. FRISON SAID THAT THE ICFTU IS IN AN "EMBARRASSING"  
SITUATION SINCE IT HAS WITHHELD FILING AN ILO COMPLAINT  
ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD,  
BEFORE MAY 1, BRING ITS LABOR LEGISLATION IN CONFORMITY  
WITH ILO STANDARDS. IN THE WORDS OF A DRAFT ICFTU  
PRESS RELEASE, "THE NEW LEGISLATION VIOLATES ILO  
CONVENTIONS." THE DRAFT RELEASE CALLS WTHE LAW  
"COMPLETELY INADEQUATE" -- "WHILE WELCOMING THE FACT  
THAT SPANISH LAW AT LAST RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE."

4. THERE IS DISAGREEMENT IN THE ICFTU HEADQUARTERS OVER  
HOW STRONGLY TO EXPRESS ITS DISAPPOINTMENT, BOTH IN THE  
PRESS RELEASE AND IN A CABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT. WE WILL  
TRANSMIT PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESS STATEMENT  
WHEN IT IS FINALLY ISSUED.HINTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR LAW, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ECBRU03235  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SIL  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 MADRID 2396  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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